

**Report of Survey Visit
Lone Star College Montgomery in Conroe, Texas
Vocational Nursing Education Program**

Summary of Request

Consider the report of the April 26-27, 2016 regular survey visit to the Lone Star College - Montgomery Vocational Nursing (VN) Education Program in Conroe, Texas. The survey visit was conducted by Janice I. Hooper, PhD, RN, FRE, CNE, FAAN, and Beverly Skloss, MSN, RN, Contract Program Evaluator.

Historical Perspective:

- The VN Program at Lone Star College (LSC) – Montgomery began in 1996.
- The VN Program uses a face-to-face instruction model with detailed student information and communications provided online.
- A group of twenty-four (24) students is enrolled each year in May, graduating the following May. Twenty (20) VN students will graduate on May 13.
- The NCLEX-PN® pass rates since 2001 have consistently been 90% to 100% each year. Pass rates for the past five (5) years are reflected in the table below:

| Examination Year | BON Approval Status | NCLEX-PN® Examination Pass Rate | Number of First Time Candidates (Passed/Total) |
|-------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------|
| 2015 | Full | 90.48% | 19/21 |
| 2014 | Full | 94.12% | 16/17 |
| 2013 | Full | 95.83% | 23/24 |
| 2012 | Full | 100% | 23/23 |
| 2011 | Full | 100% | 18/18 |

- A regular six-year survey visit was conducted by Janice I. Hooper and Beverly Skloss on April 26-27, 2016. The last visit to the program was conducted in June 2008.

Summary of Survey Findings (See Attachment #1)

Pros and Cons from Survey Visit:

Pros:

- The VN program is directed by an experienced director and the faculty are committed to excellence in instruction and providing a caring environment for the students.
- The Lab Coordinator and Simulation Coordinator serve in valuable roles in the clinical learning experiences for students, and are focused on connecting theoretical content to practice.
- Students commented on the caring attributes of the faculty in their instruction and constructive feedback to students as they progress through the program.

Cons:

- Though the program has a number of part-time office workers and a shared administrative assistant, a part-time administrative assistant for the Program Director would greatly facilitate her work and allow opportunities for faculty to use more time of the part-time workers.

Staff Rationale:

Board Staff have provided the following rationale for the recommendation in the attached letter. Even though the program is functioning well with the current shared and part-time staff, an additional part-time administrative assistant dedicated to the Program Director would be beneficial in alleviating workload and facilitating efficiency.

Staff Recommendation:

Move to accept the report of the survey visit to the Lone Star College - Montgomery Vocational Nursing Education Program in Conroe, Texas and issue one recommendation as indicated in the attached letter (Attachment #2).

**Summary of Survey Visit
Lone Star College (LSC) – Montgomery in Conroe, Texas
Vocational Nursing Education Program**

Purpose of Survey visit: Regular Six-Year Survey Visit

Date of Visit: April 26-27, 2016

Board Representative Conducting Visit: Janice I. Hooper, PhD, RN, FRE, CNE, FAAN, and Beverly Skloss, MSN, RN, Contract Program Evaluator

Board Representatives met with Administration:

- Dr. Rebecca Riley, President
- Dr. James McGee, Vice President of Instruction
- Dr. Michael Chavez, Vice President of Student Services
- Pat Sendelbach, Vice President of Administrative Services
- Dr. Kelly Weller, Interim Dean
- Julie E. Kendall, MSN, RN, Director of Nursing Programs
- Mallory Snodgrass, BS

Board Representatives:

- Met with Julie E. Kendall, MSN, RN, Program Director
- Met with the following nursing faculty:
- Met with Nursing Faculty:
 - Carol Erb, RN, BSN
 - Mattie McCowen, RN, MSN, MSN-Ed, ACNP-BC
 - Linda King, RN, BSN
- Reviewed the curriculum and all syllabi;
- Reviewed the Student Handbook and Faculty Handbook;
- Reviewed clinical evaluation tools;
- Reviewed faculty minutes for system-wide meetings and local meetings;
- Reviewed advisory board meeting minutes;
- Reviewed organization chart;
- Reviewed lab equipment list and budget;
- Reviewed faculty and student files;
- Reviewed student evaluations of clinical sites;
- Reviewed data in the 2015 Nursing Education Program Information Survey (NEPIS) and faculty profile;
- Interviewed eighteen (18) VN students;
- Toured program facilities;
- Observed a class in session;
- Reviewed the Total Program Evaluation Plan; and
- Conducted exit interview with Administrators, Program Directors, faculty, and staff.

Summary of Findings:

College Campus:

- LSC – Montgomery is a popular, community-supported college with approximately 14,000 students enrolled on this campus. The campus is located in a wooded area and the grounds are well-maintained.
- LSC – Montgomery is a part of the Lone Star College system where all nursing education programs collaborate in the development and maintenance of a high-quality nursing curriculum. Though the five campuses use the same basic curriculum, the five

(5) campuses vary in their scheduling and delivery formats to allow flexibility to students. Their collaboration allows a joining of knowledge and expertise in planning and delivering the curriculum.

- Each Lone Star program is separate with individual program directors and with separate administrative personnel at each site.

Administration:

- Administrators expressed a strong support for the VN Program.
- Julie E. Kendall, MSN, RN, was appointed Program Director for the ADN and VN nursing programs in January, 2014. She has many years of experience in nursing education and program administration.
- Ms. Kendall has been appointed as a Program Evaluator for the Accreditation Commission on Education in Nursing (ACEN) and had just participated in her first site visit. All of the VN documents were arranged in an organized fashion according to nursing accreditation standards, which lended to their completeness and ease for review.

Program of Study:

- The twelve (12) month program of study is designed to be completed in three (3) semesters, using face-to-face and online enhancements.
- *The Differentiated Essential Competencies (DECs) (2010)* are included within the syllabi, and are used throughout the program as clinical learning objectives for evaluation of student progression;
- Standardized testing is used at two (2) points in the curriculum to evaluate student performance against the national norms. Results are also used in curriculum evaluation and revision.
- Board Representatives visited one class in session where the topic of “Shock” was being discussed. The faculty used power point slides as she asked students questions based upon the nursing process. Students were attentive and engaged in answering the questions related to nursing interventions and evaluation of the effectiveness of the interventions.

Faculty:

- Three (3) full-time faculty teach the didactic content and supervise the students in clinical learning experiences in the VN program, ensuring a correlation of clinical practice and theory.
- The faculty are greatly assisted by a Lab Coordinator and a Simulation Coordinator. Having these competent individuals in place assures faculty time for curriculum development, student development and remediation, professional development and availability to meet student needs.
- Faculty are highly experienced nursing educators in the classroom and clinical areas.
- The school faculty handbook and nursing faculty handbook include all required policies.
- Faculty have regular meetings on the Lone Star College – Montgomery campus as well as collaborative meetings with other Lone Star College VN programs for curriculum development. Faculty expressed these collaborative meetings are valuable.
- Faculty meeting minutes are maintained and rationales for decisions are clearly documented.
- Faculty indicate that professional development is adequate and they are allowed to attend at least one professional conference each year.
- During faculty meeting with Board visitors, it was clear that faculty work well together and are supported by the Program Director, Administration, and the community.
- Faculty stated they that hands on clinical learning experiences are a key component of the program’s outstanding reputation.

Students:

- The program admits one (1) cohort per year every May with a maximum of twenty-four (24) students per cohort.
- The current cohort of twenty (20) students will finish the program May 13 and a new cohort begins May 16, 2016.
- Students reported they chose the program because of the excellent reputation in the community and the job opportunities available following graduation.
- Students indicated that faculty are very knowledgeable, available, kind, and caring.
- All twenty (20) students indicated they plan to further their education and become Registered Nurses.
- Students described their clinical experiences as being “the best” and stated they would like more clinical time including more medical-surgical content and clinical experiences.
- The student handbook is well-written with all Board requirements met.

Clinical Learning Experiences:

- The Program Director and faculty indicated a need for a new high fidelity mannequin and software for improved simulation experiences for students. Administration recognized there is a need.
- Clinical experiences are more than adequate in a variety of fourteen (14) facilities/settings with current clinical affiliation agreements in place.
- The simulation lab with high fidelity mannequins consists of four (4) hospital rooms with a nursing station and ancillary areas consistent with a hospital setting. There is also a separate student lab room for pre-simulation time and debriefings.
- Clinical learning experiences that are not obtained in a facility setting are carried out in the simulation lab to enhance student learning opportunities.
- Clinical learning experiences are well organized and are concurrent with didactic content.
- Clinical evaluation tools are based on course content, the *Differentiated Essential Competencies for Graduates of Texas Nursing Programs* (DECs) and are used for formative and summative evaluations indicating progression throughout the program.

Facilities, Resources, and Services:

- The nursing programs are housed in a health sciences building with nearby parking, an open area where students can gather and study, a spacious reception area attended by several student and/or part-time workers.
- A full array of student services is offered on the campus.
- Classrooms are well-lit, spacious, and conducive to learning.
- Skills and simulation labs are large and are constantly in use with modern technology available. The skills lab consists of low to mid fidelity mannequins for teaching use. There are two (2) private skills rooms utilized for student check-offs.
- Media equipment is available for every classroom.
- Offices for the Program Director and faculty are appropriate for a comfortable work environment with privacy for counseling students.
- The many open areas in the building invite students to study individually or in groups throughout the building.
- Ms. Kendall indicated that a part-time administrative assistant dedicated to the program director would greatly assist her role and would relieve other part-time personnel to provide assistance to nursing faculty.

Records and Reports:

- The program has a Total Program Evaluation (TPE) Plan that is designed according to the Accreditation Commission for Education in Nursing (ACEN) and indicates its regular use with documented decisions made by faculty.
- Meeting minutes indicate faculty involvement in decisions made for program improvement.

DRAFT LETTER

July 25, 2016

Julie E. Kendall, MSN, RN
Program Director
Vocational Nursing Education Program
Lone Star College – Montgomery
3200 College Park Drive
Conroe, Texas 77384

Dear Ms. Kendall,

At the July 21-22, 2016 meeting, members of the Texas Board of Nursing considered the report of the April 26-27, 2016 survey visit to the Lone Star College - Montgomery Vocational Nursing Education Program in Conroe, Texas. It was the decision of the Board to accept the report of the survey visit and issue the following recommendation:

Recommendation #1:

It is recommended that the Administration consider employing a part-time Administrative Assistant dedicated to the Program Director of the nursing programs at Lone Star College – Montgomery in Conroe, Texas.

A recommendation is a specific suggestion based upon program assessment indirectly related to the rules to which the program must respond but in a method of their choosing.

If you have any questions or if we may be of assistance, please contact Board Staff at Janice.hooper@bon.texas.gov or 512-305-6814.

Sincerely,

Katherine A. Thomas, MN, RN, FAAN
Executive Director

Copy: Dr. Rebecca Riley, President